

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4295

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TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE: CBM'S: AMPHIBIOUS AND AIRBORNE TROOPS

REF: A. GENEVA 4089; B. STATE 133586

1. DELEGATION PROPOSAL IN REFTEL A TO MAKE EXPLICIT THE FACT THAT NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR "TROOPS" INVOLVED IN MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS INCLUDES NOT ONLY REGULAR GROUND FORCE ELEMENTS BUT ALSO SPECIAL PURPOSE "TROOPS," SUCH AS AMPHIBIOUS AND AIRBORNE UNITS. DEFINITION OF MAJOR MANEUVER WOULD THUS READ ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

"IN THIS CONTEXT THE RELEVANT MILITARY MANEUVERS ARE THOSE INVOLVING GROUND FORCE, AMPHIBIOUS, AND/OR AIRBORNE TROOPS, TOGETHER WITH ANY AIR OR NAVAL COMPONENTS, IN WHICH ANY PARTICIPATING STATE IS INVOLVED."

2. UNDER SUCH A DEFINITION, NOTIFICATION WOULD BE OBLIGATORY FOR ANY MANEUVERS CONDUCTED INDEPENDENTLY BY MARINES OR AIRBORNE FORCES, IF THEY EXCEEDED THRESHOLD IN NUMBERS OF TROOPS, AS WELL AS FOR ANY COMBINED MANEUVERS IN WHICH TOTAL TROOPS EXCEEDED
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THRESHOLD. REFERENCE TO "AIR AND NAVAL COMPONENTS" WOULD BE TAK-

EN TO MEAN SUPPORTING AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS INVOLVED IN CASE OF COMBINED MANEUVERS, AND THEIR CREWS.

3. IN REACHING JUDGMENT ON WHETHER SUCH A DEFINITION IS ACCEPTABLE TO U.S., WE RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON TAKE ACCOUNT OF TWO OTHER ASPECTS OF MANEUVERS TEXT WHICH WILL LIMIT PRACTICAL EFFECT OF MEASURE ON ANY MANEUVERS BY US MARINES OR AIRBORNE FORCES;

A. AREA -- PORTION OF AREA TEXT WHICH IS NOT "MENTALLY" REGISTERED READS: "NOTIFICATION (NATURE OF COMMITMENT) GIVEN OF MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS WHICH TAKE PLACE ON THE TERRITORY OF ANY PARTICIPATING STATE IN EUROPE, AS WELL AS, IF APPLICABLE, IN THE ADJACENT SEA AREA AND AIR SPACE." CONVERSELY, THIS PROVISION CLEARLY ESTABLISHES THAT MANEUVERS WHICH DO NOT TAKE PLACE IN "ADJACENT SEA AREA AND AIR SPACE" -- I.E., MANEUVERS IN OR OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS -- WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, REGARDLESS OF THE TYPES OF FORCES INVOLVED.

B. THRESHOLD -- IN VIEW OF EXISTING NEGOTIATING SITUATION, IT IS ALREADY CLEAR THAT THRESHOLD WILL NOT BE SET UNDER 20,000, AND IT IS ALMOST AS CERTAIN THAT THRESHOLD WILL NOT BE LOWER THAN 25,000. THUS, INDEPENDENT AMPHIBIOUS OR AIRBORNE MANEUVERS WOULD ONLY BE SUBJECT TO OBLIGATORY NOTIFICATION IF THE NUMBERS OF TROOPS INVOLVED EXCEEDED 20-25,000.

4. IF US CANNOT ACCEPT EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO AMPHIBIOUS AND AIRBORNE TROOPS IN DEFINITION OF MANEUVER, THERE WILL BE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT US BELIEVES THAT THESE ELEMENTS ARE NOT RPT NOT COVERED BY THE WORD "TROOPS." SUCH AN INTERPRETATION WOULD RUN CONTRARY TO GENERAL VIEW OF NATO ALLIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN CONFERENCE, AND WOULD BE LIKELY TO CAUSE CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS ON EFFECT OF INCLUDING "AMPHIBIOUS AND/OR AIRBORNE" BEFORE "TROOPS" IN DEFINITION OF MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT THIS MOVE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES, AND EVENTUALLY IN FULL SUBCOMMITTEE.DALE

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